

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 6
6 SEPTEMBER 2011	Public Report

Report of the Chief Executive

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THE DISPOSAL OF VAWSER LODGE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report has been produced as a response to a request from the Sustainable Growth Scrutiny Committee for an update on progress towards the disposal of the Vawser Lodge Site.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Sustainable Growth and Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the contents of this report.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 This report links to the Sustainable Community Strategy by delivering substantial and truly sustainable growth.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In April 2000 Vawser Lodge was declared surplus to the objectives of the Council and Partners. As a result various disposal options have been considered regarding the future use of this site. Key to this is establishing a disposal route that provides 'best value' for the Council.

As part of the process to establish this disposal route it was necessary to consider the importance of this particular site to the development of an area and also its impact on adjacent land. During this process it became clear that the disposal of the neighbouring Peterborough District Hospital (PDH) site was at an advanced stage and that the correct strategy could release an advanced value for the Council.

To ensure that the Council was in a position to move forward quickly with this project a decision was made to enter the project onto the Forward Plan. This would ensure that should the timetable be challenging, normal Council protocols could be followed without the need to seek a waiver. The anticipated value of the site will be in excess of £500k and therefore any disposal will be a key decision but can be approved via a Cabinet Member Decision Notice (CMDN).

Unfortunately the disposal has not moved forward as quickly as planned. This is largely because the disposal of Vawser Lodge is closely linked to the future of the neighbouring PDH site which is outside of Peterborough City Council's control. To move forward without understanding the future of this site could lead to the Council not achieving best value.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 Key issues to be considered by the Committee:
1. Delays which are outside the control of the Council; and
 2. Notice of a future decision to be given to elected members.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Since this report is for information only there is no direct impact on an individual ward. However the proposal to dispose of Vawser Lodge will have a direct impact on West Ward.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 There has been no internal or external consultation on this report

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 It is anticipated that Committee Members will receive updates on progress when applicable

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9.1 *None*

10. APPENDICES

10.1 *None*